

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

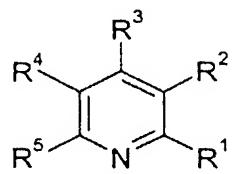
Claims 1-16 (Canceled).

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): A method for the synthesis of a phosphorus compound, comprising:

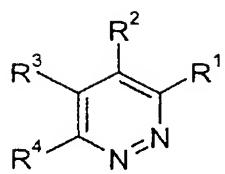
reacting a phosphorus halide with an amine or an alcohol, thereby liberating an acid;
wherein said phosphorus halide is a compound having at least one phosphorus-
halogen (P-Hal) bond;
reacting (i) [[an]] said acid liberated during said synthesis and (ii) an auxiliary base to form a salt of the auxiliary base; said salt being liquid at temperatures at which the phosphorus compound is not significantly decomposed during the process of separating off the liquid salt;

forming two immiscible liquid phases, a first phase comprising said salt of the auxiliary base and a second phase comprising said phosphorus compound or a solution of said phosphorus compound in a solvent; and

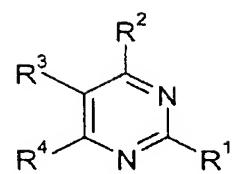
separating said first phase from said second phase;
wherein said phosphorus compound is selected from the group consisting of aminodihalophosphines, diaminohalophosphines, triaminophosphines, phosphorous ester diamides, aminophosphines, diaminophosphines, phosphorous ester amide halides, aminophosphine halides and phosphonous ester halides;
wherein the base used is selected from the group consisting of compounds of the formulae (Ia) to (Ir),



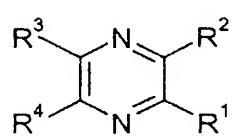
(a)



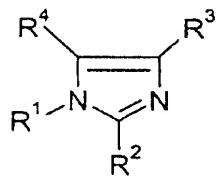
(b)



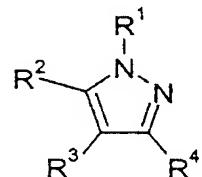
(c)



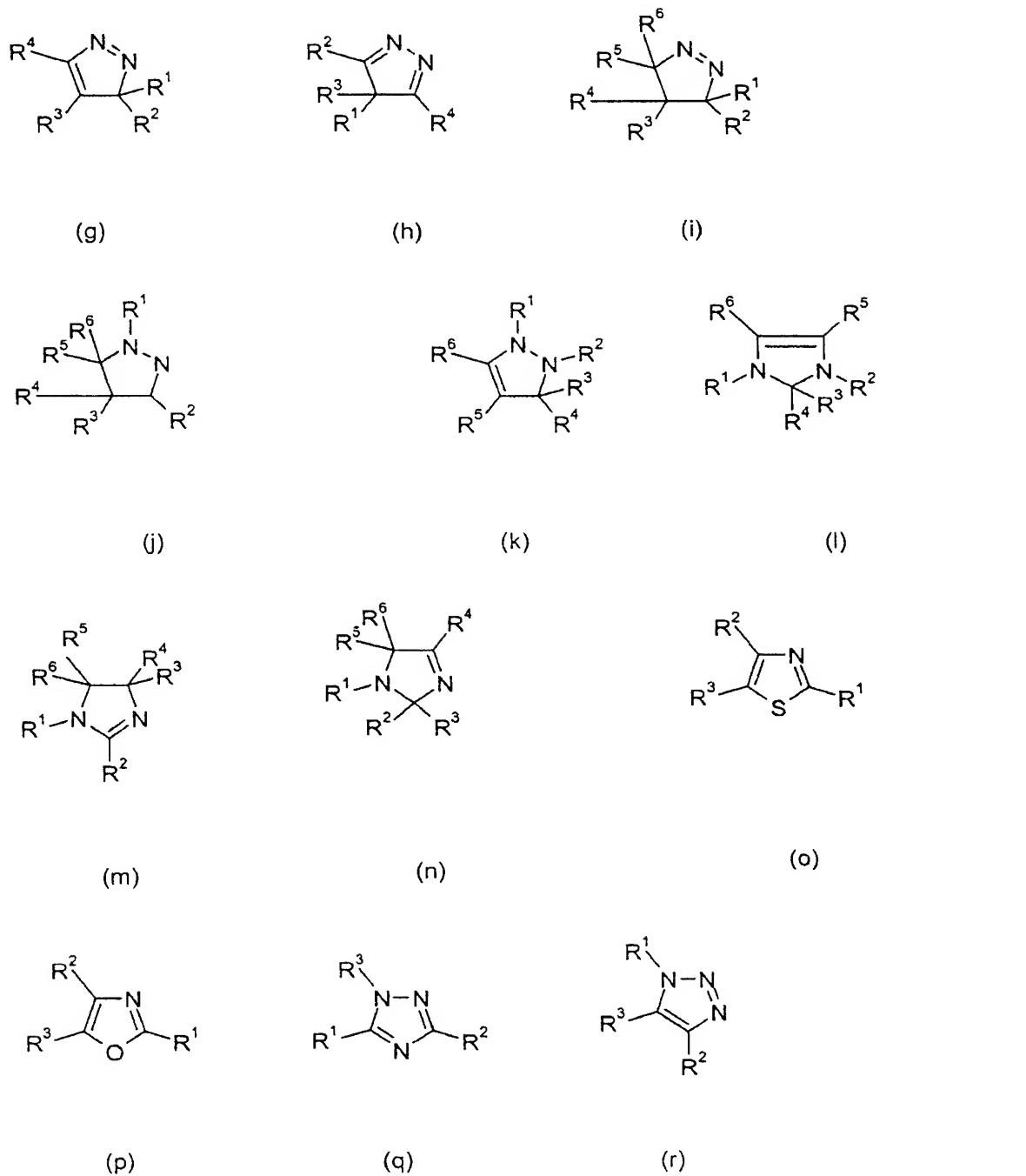
(d)



(e)



(f)



wherein

R¹, R², R³, R⁴, R⁵ and R⁶ are each, independently of one another, hydrogen, C₁-C₁₈-alkyl, C₂-C₁₈-alkyl which may be interrupted by one or more oxygen and/or sulfur atoms and/or one or more substituted or unsubstituted imino groups, C₆-C₁₂-aryl, C₅-C₁₂-cycloalkyl or a five- to six-membered, oxygen, nitrogen- and/or sulfur-containing heterocycle, wherein

each of the abovementioned radicals may be substituted by functional groups, aryl, alkyl, aryloxy, alkyloxy, halogen, heteroatoms and/or heterocycles.

Claim 18 (Previously Presented): The method as claimed in claim 17, wherein the salt of the auxiliary base has a melting point below 160°C.

Claim 19 (Previously Presented): The method as claimed in claim 17, wherein the salt of the auxiliary base has an $E_T(30)$ of more than 35.

Claim 20 (Previously Presented): The method as claimed in claim 17, wherein the base contains at least one nitrogen atom.

Claim 21 (Canceled):

Claim 22 (Previously Presented): The method as claimed in claim 17, wherein the auxiliary base is 1-n-butyimidazole, 1-methylimidazole, 2-methylpyridine or 2-ethylpyridine.

Claim 23 (Previously Presented): The method as claimed in claim 17, wherein the auxiliary base is di-n-butyl-n-pentylamine or 1,5-diazabicyclo[4.3.0]non-5-ene (DBN).

Claim 24 (Previously Presented): The method as claimed in claim 17, wherein the salt of the auxiliary base is soluble to an extent of less than 20% by weight in the desired product or in the solution of the desired product in a suitable solvent.

Claim 25 (Previously Presented): The method as claimed in claim 17, wherein diphosphorous diester amides ($[N](R'O)P-O-Z-O-P[N'](OR'')$), diphosphorous ester diamides ($[N][N']P-O-Z-O-P[N''][N''']$), bistriaminophosphines ($[N][N']P-[N'']-Z-[N''']-P[N''''][N''''']$), or systems of the formula $[N](R'O)P-O-Z-O-P(OR'')(OR''')$, $[N][N']P-O-Z-O-P(OR'')(OR''')$ or $[N][N']P-O-Z-O-P[N''](OR''')$ or systems which are both nitrogen- and carbon-substituted on each phosphorus and have the formula $[N](R')P-O-Z-O-P[N'](R''')$ or $[N](R')P-[N'']-Z-[N''']-P[N'](R''')$ or systems of the formula $[N](R'O)P-O-Z-O-P[N'](R''')$ are prepared, wherein R, R', R'' and R''' can be any organic radicals which may be identical or different, [N], [N'], [N''], [N'''], [N''''], and [N'''''] are unsubstituted, monosubstituted or disubstituted amino groups which may be identical or different and Z can be any divalent bridge.

Claim 26 (Previously Presented): The method for preparing phosphorus compounds as set forth in claim 17, wherein the preparation is carried out continuously at from 30°C to 190°C and a residence time of from 1 second to 1 hour.

Claims 27-29 (Canceled):